

May 2015 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

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Overview

May 2015 featured temperatures which averaged out above normal (Table 1 and Fig. 2), a departure that increased from west to east. By and large, precipitation also ran above normal with a small area of the “thumb” running slightly below normal (Table 1 and Fig. 4). Otherwise, precipitation departures ran slightly above normal through a thin ribbon of Central Lower Michigan and well above normal in much of Northern and Southern Lower Michigan. No snowfall was recorded in the month of May.

The month brought on what could have arguably been the year’s first somewhat sustainable, mild air mass. Temperatures generally ran slightly above normal to well above normal through the first week. A warm front resulted in welcome rainfall May 4th and May 5th, as eighty-plus degree temperatures followed suit May 7th. Temperatures at the time were more representative of mid-July than early May.

The first roller coaster ride in temperatures came toward the end of the second week of May. A storm system would approach the region at the start of the second week, accompanied by a sharp cold front. A large part of May 12th was spent in the 40s, before topping out near 50, but the rapid fall in temperatures was brief. The Great Lakes Region saw a gradual rise back into the 70s by May 15th and 80s by May 17th.

The northern influence made an impact once more during the end of the third week. Another downward spiral in temperatures was experienced on May 19th and May 20th. Cooler temperatures only lasted a few days. By Memorial Day weekend pleasant weather returned to the area. Mild temperatures and dry weather took command.

Ample warmth and moisture returned in the following week providing for what would be May’s best shot at thunderstorms. Though severe weather was hard to come by, May 26th provided a couple sightings of a fairly consistent wall cloud near Beal City, Michigan. Isolated reports of tree damage were also received in Newaygo County, but widespread damage did not occur in either case. Overall, the month was relatively quiet in regards to severe weather.

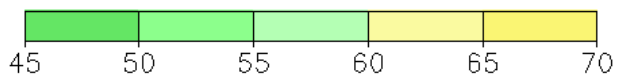
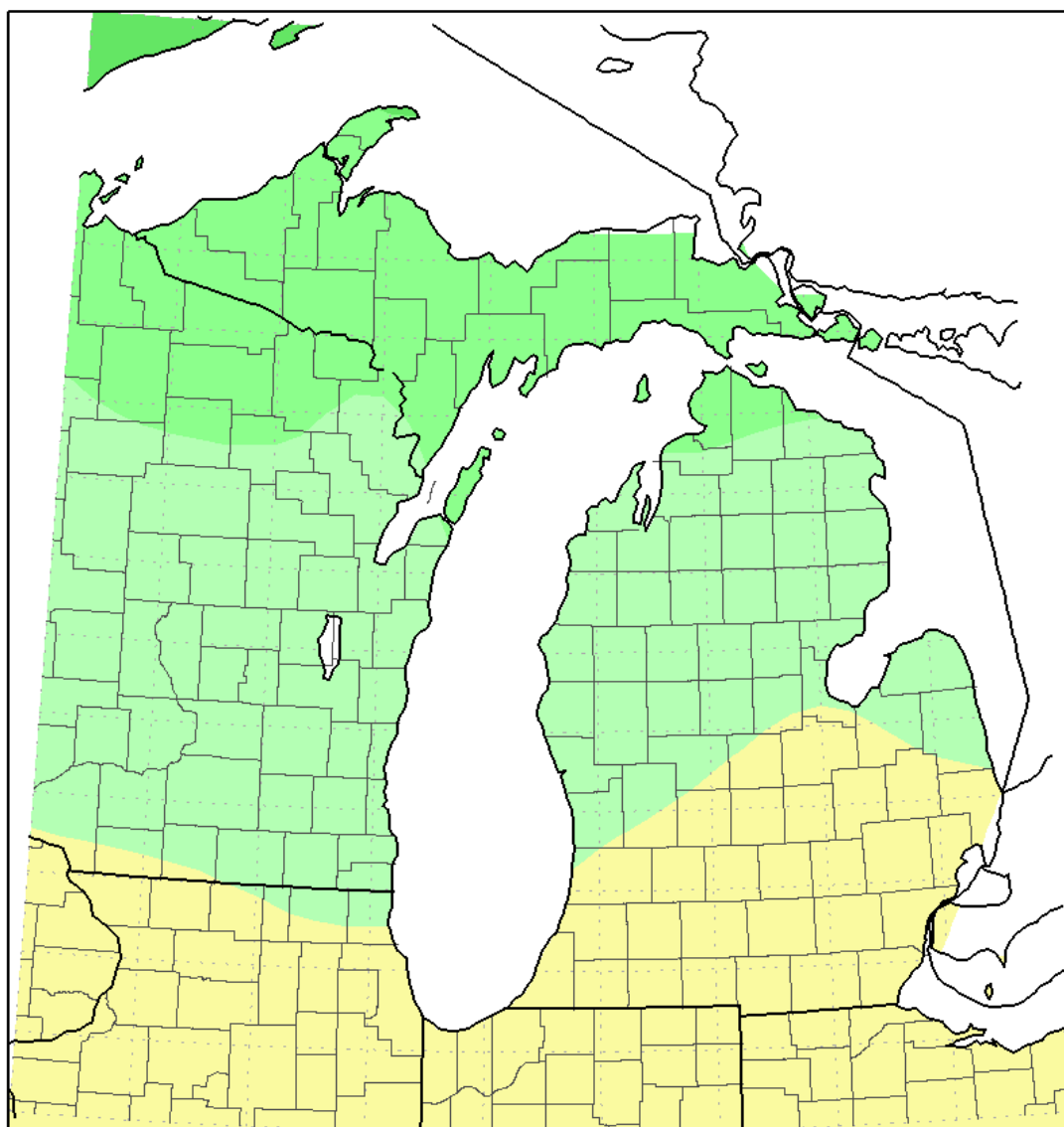
May 2015 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

Table 1. Reported temperature, precipitation and snowfall amounts for May 2015 at the primary climate stations in Southwest Lower Michigan and departures from normal.

Location		Average Temperature (°F)	Precipitation (inches)	Snowfall (inches)
Grand Rapids	Observed	60.9	3.47	0.0
	Departure from Normal	2.2	-0.51	0.0
	Normal	58.7	3.98	0.0
Lansing	Observed	61.2	3.77	0.0
	Departure from Normal	3.5	0.41	0.0
	Normal	57.7	3.36	0.0
Muskegon	Observed	59.1	3.29	0.0
	Departure from Normal	2.2	0.04	0.0
	Normal	56.9	3.25	0.0

May 2015 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

Average Temperature (°F)
May 1, 2015 to May 31, 2015

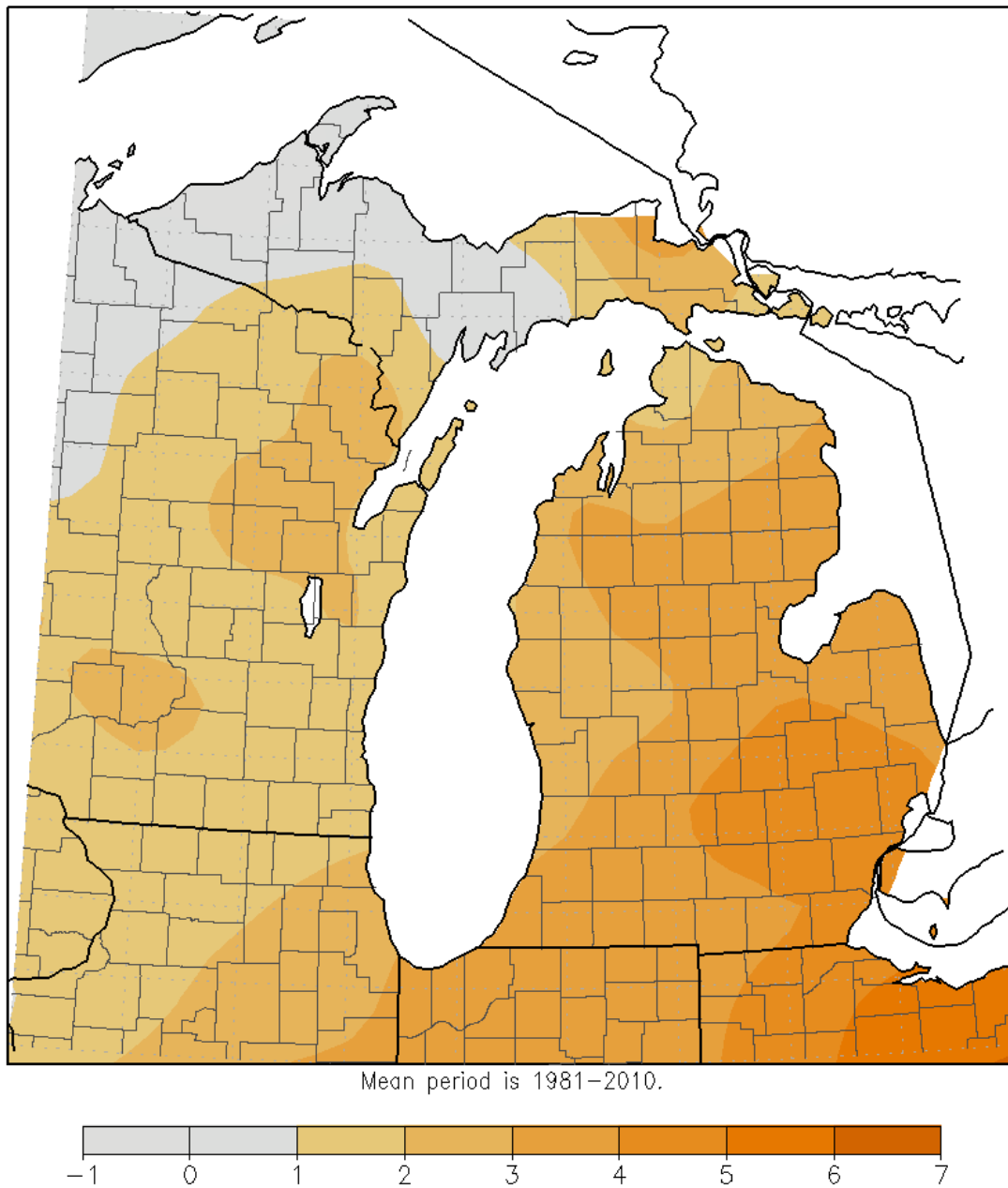


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Figure 1. Average temperature (°F) for May 2015.

May 2015 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from Mean
May 1, 2015 to May 31, 2015

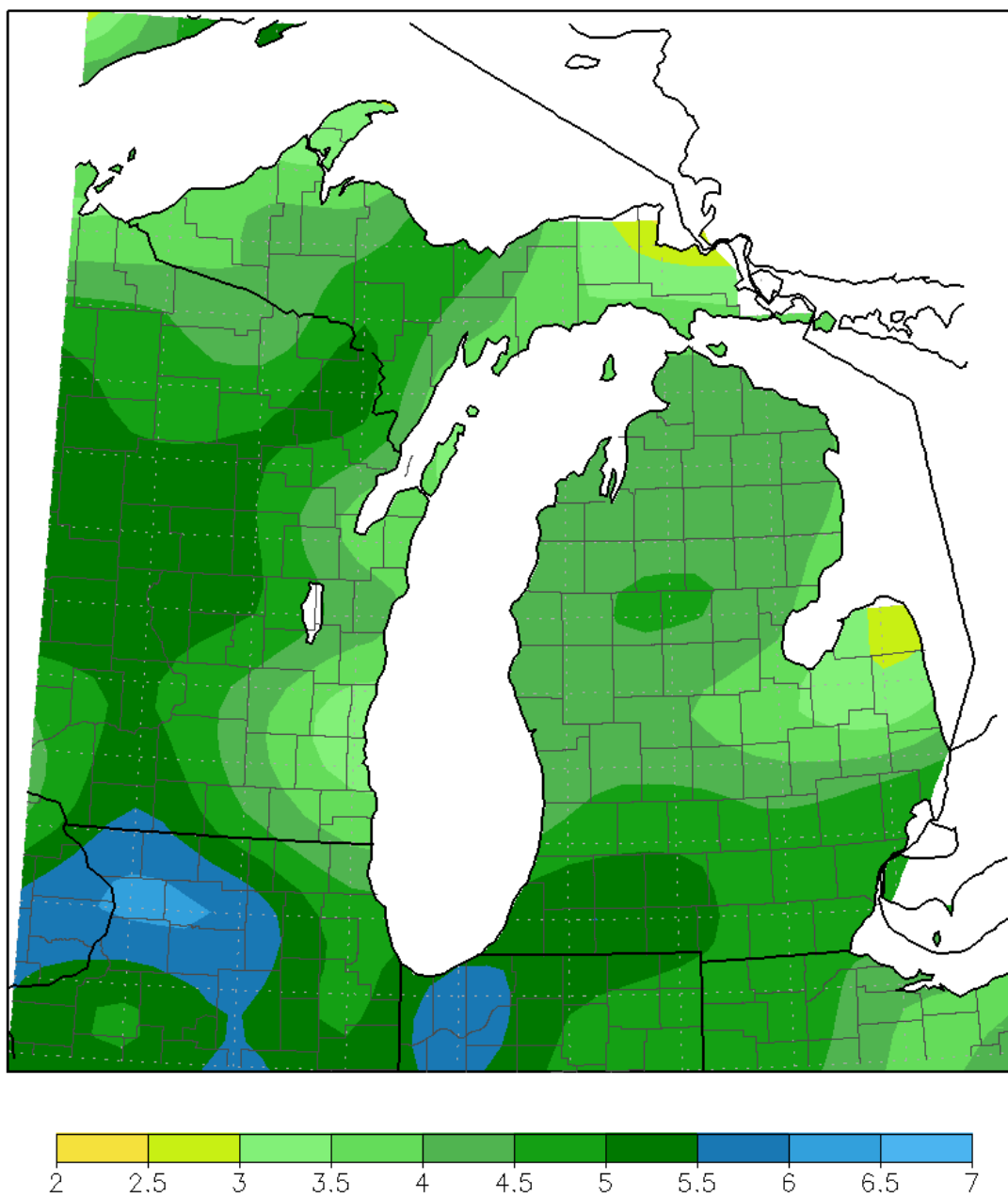


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Figure 2. Average temperature departure from normal (°F) for May 2015.

May 2015 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
May 1, 2015 to May 31, 2015

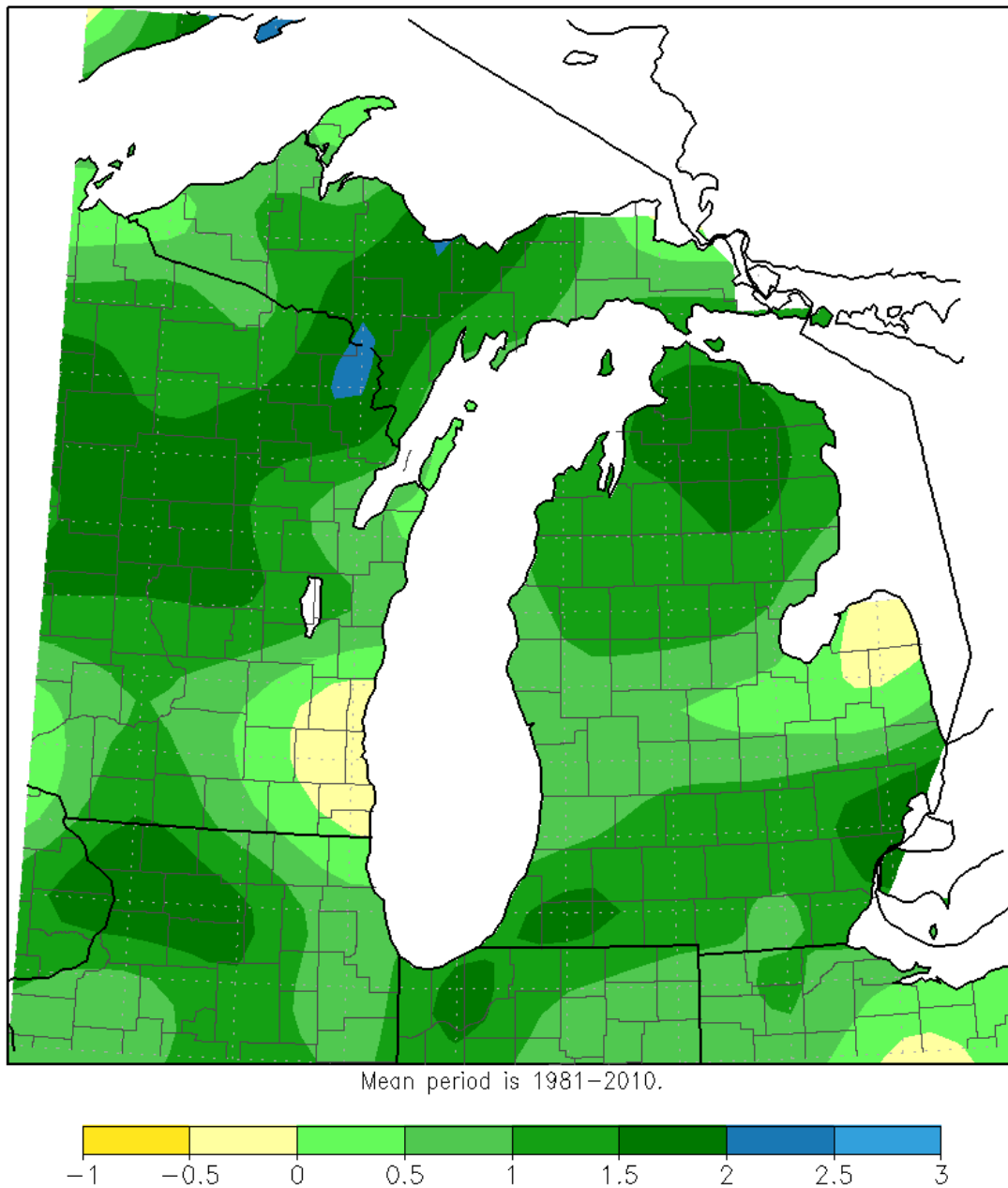


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Figure 3. Total precipitation (inches) for May 2015.

May 2015 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from Mean
May 1, 2015 to May 31, 2015



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Figure 4. Precipitation departure from normal (inches) for May 2015.